

96-262

From: rmmh <rmmh@brightok.net>
To: A7.A7(SNESS)
Date: 5/6/97 11:35am
Subject: Telecommunications Subsidies/Rural

SUNSHINE PERIOD

Commissioner Susan Ness

I am writing to encourage you to vote for telecommunications rate subsidies for schools, libraries and rural health care providers. As Administrator for a rural acute care hospital, rural health clinic, home health agency and emergency ambulance services in Roger Mills County, Oklahoma, I urge you to give rural health care providers access to telecommunications services at about the same overall cost as urban health care providers. The additional cost of distance charges for rural facilities causes an additional financial burden for these providers. Many cannot afford these services without subsidies. I also urge you to vote for rate subsidies for schools and libraries. Our communities desire and deserve access to telecommunications services for their growth and prosperity. Thank you in advance for your help and consideration on this matter. Marilyn Bryan, Administrator, Roger Mills Memorial Hospital, Cheyenne, Oklahoma.

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MAY 6 1997

**Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary**

46-262

From: Jeff Davis <jdavis@mediatransitions.com>
To: "rhundt@fcc.gov" <rhundt@fcc.gov>
Date: 5/6/97 11:30am
Subject: Southwestern Bell request

SUNSHINE PERIOD

Dear Commissioners,

I support the application of Southwestern Bell Telephone to offer long distance service in the State of Oklahoma.

Additional competition is good for small businesses like mine when attempting to keep costs low and service quality high. I recently established a small business in Oklahoma and would have liked to have had the choice to purchase long distance service from SWB.

I encourage you to approve the application SWB has submitted.

Jeff Davis, CEO
Media Transitions

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MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

ACTA

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

MAY 5 3 17 PM '97

April 30, 1997

SUNSHINE PERIOD

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Commissioner Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W. Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Ness,

Thank you for meeting with America's Carriers Telecommunication Association (ACTA) on April 15, 1997. I appreciate both the time and the interest you gave to ACTA's Universal Service and Access Charge Reform positions. It was rewarding to voice the concerns that are most important to the small carrier to a key decision and policy maker.

ACTA represents small and mid-sized telecommunications carriers. In our estimation it is our membership, more than any other group, that has fueled the growth of competition in the telecommunications industry. ACTA believes access charges are currently priced at \$11 Billion above cost. These access charges effectively represent sanctioned over-funding of our competitors and are contra to the goals established by the Telecommunications Act of 1996. In addition, while we fund RBOC entry into long distance, the RBOC's thwart our efforts to compete in local services.

As we discussed at our meeting, the examples of these anti-competitive practices range in scope from total unresponsiveness to excessive and lengthy training prerequisite sessions. Although these practices may appear manageable on an individual basis, they are extremely effective against the small and mid-sized carriers who cannot financially survive the waiting game. ACTA supports a full distribution of the \$11 Billion access charges in excess of cost to achieve a fully supported Universal Service Fund, complete funding for schools and libraries, and a net access charge reduction of \$7 Billion over four years. It is our position that this is the most effective and reasonable way to achieve national public policy goals, a vibrant competitive industry, and still not adversely affect the financial health of the RBOC's.

Members of ACTA believe it is only through a dramatic net reduction to current access charges that the American people will see sustained downward competitive pressure on the cost of their telecommunications. Since deregulation of the telecommunications industry the American people have reaped the reward of lower long distance rates and greater provider choice. At the same time the telecommunications industry has

950 South Winter Park Drive, Suite 333 Casselberry, Florida 32707
Phone: 407-332-9382 or 800-881-ACTA(2282) Fax: 407-332-9780 E-Mail: actanet1@intellistar.net

8180 Greensboro Drive, Suite 700 McLean, Virginia 22102
Phone: 703-714-1332 Fax: 703-714-1330 E-Mail: actanet1@intellistar.net



S. Ness

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COMMISSIONER
SUNSHINE PERIOD
Page 2

May 5 3 17 PM '97

experienced higher growth and profitability than almost any other industry in our nation. The current access charge reform rulemaking offers a new opportunity for both the American people and the telecommunications industry to be served.

Again, thank you for your time and attention. I would be happy to talk with you again or answer any questions you may have so that we may achieve our common goal of a healthy competitive industry.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Meadows".

James Meadows
President
America's Carriers Telecommunication Association

JM:jdj

cc: ACTA Board of Directors
J. Casserly, FCC

May 1, 1997

Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20054

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I write in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act - through its Universal Service Fund provisions - mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

There is no doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all our nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century. As of now our school system is unable to afford Internet capabilities to extend access to each classroom. Our local telephone company has been reluctant to give our schools reduced rates. We would like for our students to have the same opportunities that are afforded to students in more affluent areas. Without the passage of the Telecommunications Act, there is very little hope that we will ever be able to provide this opportunity.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to the schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

I urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,

Delia Smith

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OFFICE OF
COMMUNICATIONS
SUSAN NESS

SUNSHINE PERIOD

MAY 5 3 20 PM '97

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MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER

The School District of Haverford Township
CHATHAM PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
100 Allston Road • Havertown, PA 19083 • 610-853-5910.

April 29, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

SUNSHINE PERIOD

Dear Commissioner Ness,

As an elementary principal in the School District of Haverford Township, I would like to thank you for your support and dedication to education that will ensure Internet connection to every school student in Pennsylvania. This means all schools, including our own, along with the libraries in our communities, will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan guarantees that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet. With that connection, each student will be provided with distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 million a year will address the needs of our schools and, more importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. The inclusion of internal classroom connections at a discount is vital. The plan is essential to prepare students for tomorrow's work force.

Passage of this Act will allow our computer use to connect our students to the world, not only technologically, but personally. We all know thinking globally will be important for the future of our state and our country. Connecting to the world through computers will help our students learn and understand issues on a world-wide basis. Being able to connect with our county library system will also give us access to additional learning materials quickly and easily. Our children's future and the future of every child in Pennsylvania will depend on this program.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,

Daniel Marsella

Daniel Marsella

96-262

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

The School District of Haverford Township

HAVERFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

1800 Darby Road • Havertown, PA 19083 • 610-853-5925.

April 29, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED
MAY 6 1997
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

SUNSHINE PERIOD

Dear Commissioner Ness,

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Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,

Michael Bianco

Michael Bianco

96-262

May 1, 1997

Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20054

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OFFICE OF
COMMUNICATIONS
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MAY 5 3 20 11 '97 **SUNSHINE PERIOD**

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MAY 6 1997

Dear Commissioner Ness:

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

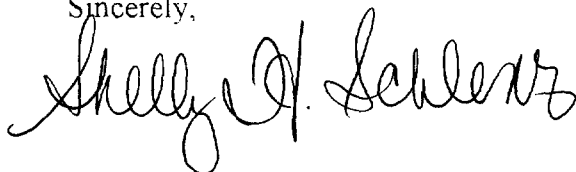
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Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to the schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

I urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,



May 1, 1997

Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20054

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COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

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MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

SUNSHINE PERIOD

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Sincerely,

Harry Hilliard

ACTA

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COMMISSIONER
SUNSHINE PERIOD

MAY 5 3 17 PM '97

April 30, 1997

Commissioner Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W. Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20554

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MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioner Ness,

Thank you for meeting with America's Carriers Telecommunication Association (ACTA) on April 15, 1997. I appreciate both the time and the interest you gave to ACTA's Universal Service and Access Charge Reform positions. It was rewarding to voice the concerns that are most important to the small carrier to a key decision and policy maker.

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Members of ACTA believe it is only through a dramatic net reduction to current access charges that the American people will see sustained downward competitive pressure on the cost of their telecommunications. Since deregulation of the telecommunications industry the American people have reaped the reward of lower long distance rates and greater provider choice. At the same time the telecommunications industry has



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SUSAN W. HARRIS

S. Ness

Page 2
MAY 5 3 17 PM '97

experienced higher growth and profitability than almost any other industry in our nation. The current access charge reform rulemaking offers a new opportunity for both the American people and the telecommunications industry to be served.

Again, thank you for your time and attention. I would be happy to talk with you again or answer any questions you may have so that we may achieve our common goal of a healthy competitive industry.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Meadows". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

James Meadows
President
America's Carriers Telecommunication Association

JM:jdj

cc: ACTA Board of Directors
J. Casserly, FCC

96-262

BOARD OF EDUCATION AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
6020 Pontiac Lake Road
Waterford, Michigan 48327-1847

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

SUNSHINE PERIOD

HOWARD T. HEITZEG
Superintendent of Schools

MAY 5 3 18 PM '97
PHONE: (810) 666-2222
VOICE MAIL: (810) 666-6699 Ext: 6-2222
FAX: (810) 666-2558
INTERNET: 73554.121@compuserve.com

April 28, 1997



Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, N.W., Room 832
Washington, D. C. 20554

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MAY 6 1997
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioner Ness:

Chairman Hundt made a presentation at the Secretary of Education's Conference on Educational Technologies two years ago and spoke of an educational rate that would provide every school and library in the country with discounted services for telecommunications. His remarks were well received and I am glad to see that he is a man of his word and that this proposal is now coming to fruition.

I thank you for your dedication and commitment to ensure that all schools have affordable access to the information superhighway. The proposed e-rate plan will begin to address some of the needs of our students. This joint effort between the government and business will provide schools with the electronic communications that will allow us to prepare our students for the workforce of tomorrow.

If our students are truly to be competitive, it will take the efforts of government, business, and education working together to provide for the best educational environment for these students. Telecommunication is the wave of the future and must be supported by all who serve education.

In closing, I urge the FCC to fully support the joint Board's discount plan for the universal service for all schools and libraries in this nation.

Thank you for your support.


Howard Heitzeg, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

/de

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96-262

OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

May 1, 1997

MAY 5 3 21 PM '97

Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20054

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SUNSHINE PERIOD

MAY 6 1997

Dear Commissioner Ness:

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

I write in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act - through its Universal Service Fund provisions - mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

There is no doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all our nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century. As of now our school system is unable to afford Internet capabilities to extend access to each classroom. Our local telephone company has been reluctant to give our schools reduced rates. We would like for our students to have the same opportunities that are afforded to students in more affluent areas. Without the passage of the Telecommunications Act, there is very little hope that we will ever be able to provide this opportunity.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to the schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

I urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,

Pamela Sefch

96-262

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SUSAN NESS

SUNSHINE PERIOD

May 1, 1997

Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20054

MAY 5 3 08 PM '97

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MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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Sincerely,

Joan Stevens

96-262

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

SUNSHINE PERIOD

May 1, 1997

MAY 5 3 08 PM '97

Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20054

MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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Sincerely,

Eva Starks Conway

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

96-262

SUNSHINE PERIOD

May 1, 1997

MAY 5 3 09 PM '97

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MAY 6 1997 SUNSHINE PERIOD

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20054

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Sincerely,

Eugenia Middleton

May 1, 1997

Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20054

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Sincerely,

Martha Williams

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

MAY 5 3 09 PM '97 SUNSHINE PERIOD

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MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

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1919 M St. NW, Room 832
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Office of Secretary

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There is no doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all our nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century. As of now our school system is unable to afford Internet capabilities to extend access to each classroom. Our local telephone company has been reluctant to give our schools reduced rates. We would like for our students to have the same opportunities that are afforded to students in more affluent areas. Without the passage of the Telecommunications Act, there is very little hope that we will ever be able to provide this opportunity.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to the schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

I urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,

Marian Nease

96-262

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

MAY 5 3 10 PM '97

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MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

May 1, 1997

Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20054

Dear Commissioner Ness:

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Sincerely,

Maria H. McRae

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

SUNSHINE PERIOD

May 1, 1997

MAY 5 3 11 PM '97

Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20054

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MAY 6 1997

Dear Commissioner Ness:

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

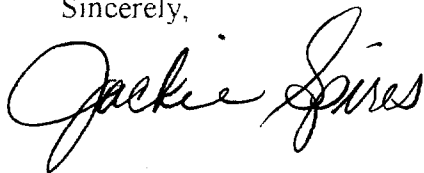
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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS
SUNSHINE PERIOD

PEARL AVENUE
CHESWICK, PENNSYLVANIA 15024

MAY 5 2 57 PM '97

April 30, 1997

RECEIVED
MAY 6 1997
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N. W. Room 844
Washington, D. C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Ness:

On May 8, 1997, when you vote on the FCC Federal State Joint Boards recommendation to provide significant discounts for all telecommunications services, including connections within each classroom, you will have the opportunity to guarantee that all students have an equal opportunity to benefit from our nation's technological advancements. This will prove to be a major step in the efforts to prepare students for their future in which 60% of the jobs will require computer skills.

As a school superintendent, I can assure you that the proposed discounts would provide a major thrust to our efforts to integrate technology into the curriculum. We are committed to providing our students with the computer skills that business demands and that our workforce will need to maintain our competitiveness in a global economy.

I encourage you to support the plan to provide discounts to schools for all telecommunications services, including internal connections. This action will open the door of opportunity for every student in our country and help to prepare our workforce of the future.

Sincerely,

Ronald J. Wasilak, Ph. D.
Superintendent

Superintendent
Pearl Avenue
Cheswick, PA 15024
412-274-5300

Springdale High School
501 Butler Road
Springdale, PA 15144
412-274-8100

Acmetonia Elementary
Pearl Avenue
Cheswick, PA 15024
412-274-6500

Colfax Elementary
Colfax at Roslyn
Springdale, PA 15144
412-274-7200

Business Office
Pearl Avenue
Cheswick, PA 15024
412-274-5300



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MAY 5 2 50 PM '97

April 23, 1997

Chairman Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W.
Washington, DC

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MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Chairman Hundt:

As you are aware, The Telecommunications Act of 1996 intends that consumers receive the benefits of choice, competitive prices and technological innovation. Such benefits are of particular importance to the community I live in and the students I serve. Tulsa, a community developed through the growth of the petroleum industry, has refocused its future on the economic potential of telecommunications-based businesses. Much of the job growth reported by our local Chamber of Commerce is tied to this economic sector.

Of equal importance is the role that telecommunications plays in education. The need for computers, Internet access and classrooms that provide facilities for interactive, distance learning is continually growing. Indeed, the ability to link students with learning opportunities has never been greater. In our community, Southwestern Bell has stepped forward to meet those needs, providing funding for Internet learning and for the development of high tech, interactive education in the classroom. Similar programs to encourage use of these advanced educational tools have also been funded by the company for primary and secondary schools in the area. These are commitments, I believe, which are consistent with those of the policy makers on the Federal Communications Commission.

Considering the increasing need for such services in both the public and private sector, I believe it entirely appropriate to encourage additional telecommunications choices for consumers. The community would benefit from additional long distance competition. Further, Southwestern Bell would be an appropriate addition to that field of competitors. Please support this company's effort to enter the long distance market. Their continued growth will assure benefits to consumers, businesses and students. Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Rodger A. Randle
President

CC: Commissioner James Quello
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Rachelle Chong

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725 Pinecrest • Ferndale, Michigan 48220

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SUSAN NESS

96-262
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MAY 5 2 59 PM '97

April 30, 1997

Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20554

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MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioner Ness:

Two years ago you made a presentation at the Educational Technology conference and spoke of an educational rate that would provide every school and library in the country with discounted services for telecommunications. Your remarks were well received at the conference and I'm glad to see that this proposal is now coming to fruition.

I would like to personally thank you for your dedication and commitment to ensure that all schools have affordable access to the information superhighway. The proposed e-rate plan will begin to address some of the needs of our students in our nation's schools. This joint effort between the government and businesses will provide the schools with the electronic communications that will allow us to prepare our students for the workforce of tomorrow.

If our students are truly to be competitive, it will take the efforts of government, businesses, and education working together to provide for the best educational environment for these students. Telecommunications is the wave of the future and must be supported by all who serve education.

In closing, I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for the universal service for all schools and libraries in the nation.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Marcee E. Martin, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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SUSAN NESS

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May 1, 1997

MAY 5 3 00 PM '97

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MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20054

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Sincerely,

Sandra Brewer

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COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

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MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

May 1, 1997

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Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20054

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Rosemary M. Pope